



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MARYLAND FIELD OFFICE
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Maryland Farmers Estimate \$10.4 Million in 2006 Wildlife Related Crop Losses

The Maryland Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service recently reported that Maryland farmers lost an estimated \$10.4 million in potential crop production income due to wildlife damage in 2006. The survey results were collected and tabulated from the agency's fall acreage and production survey; with nearly 1,300 reports tabulated. Damage statewide was attributed to the following wildlife species with the corresponding estimated percent loss due to each species: deer, 79 percent; resident geese, 4 percent; migrant geese, 4 percent; groundhogs, 8 percent; bear, 2 percent; and other wildlife species, 3 percent.

Estimated economic loss was greatest in North Central Maryland, with crop losses reported at \$4.8 million, 46 percent of the state's total estimated losses. Most of these losses were due to deer damage (83 percent) followed by groundhogs. Other regional losses in order of magnitude were as follows: Northern Eastern Shore, \$1.9 million, Southern Maryland, \$1.9 million; Southern Eastern Shore, \$1.2 million; and Western Maryland, \$0.6 million. Crop farmers across Maryland spent an estimated \$1.2 million in 2006 on preventative measures such as fences, frightening devices, and repellents, with North Central growers spending the most, at \$0.6 million.

Region	Estimated Economic Loss	Percent of Loss by Species						Amount Spent on Preventive Measures
		Deer	Resident Geese	Migrant Geese	Bear	Ground - hogs	Other Species ^{2/}	
	<i>dollars</i>	<i>percent</i>						<i>dollars</i>
Western (Allegany, Garrett	590,510	54	3	^{1/}	21	^{1/}	9	64,490
North Central (Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Washington)	4,774,970	83	5	^{1/}	^{1/}	10	^{1/}	613,460
Southern (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's)	1,853,470	78	4	4	^{1/}	9	^{1/}	194,370
Northern Eastern Shore (Cecil, Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot)	1,924,820	79	^{1/}	17	^{1/}	^{1/}	^{1/}	117,340
Southern Eastern Shore (Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester)	1,233,680	89	4	^{1/}	^{1/}	5	^{1/}	198,470
Maryland	10,377,450	79	4	4	2	8	3	1,188,130

^{1/} Data not published due to insufficient number of reports.

^{2/} Other Species include fox, beaver, muskrat, squirrel, vole, other birds, raccoon, and coyote.